

Dear City Manager,

On behalf of our neighbors, customers and employees, downtown Eugene stakeholders extend sincere thanks to Lane County for taking swift action to find a safe place for the unhoused among us to sleep this winter. We also want to thank the City of Eugene for reversing their October 22<sup>nd</sup> decision and supporting the County led efforts at the Hwy 99 site. We know that addressing homelessness and the growing problem of illegal camping on public and private property in our city center is not an easy task. As downtown stakeholders, we also know that the health and vibrancy of our downtown core is absolutely essential to a healthy community. It is why we all spend day-in and day-out working to make that a reality. We have come a long way in the past few years and appreciate the actions that you all have taken to keep us moving in that direction. We still have a lot to do.

Our hope is that, as a community, we can continue to stay focused on that vision for a vibrant and healthy downtown and really truly understand the unique circumstances that make our downtown particularly fragile and consider those as we search for solutions to our homelessness crisis. We believe the plan to put a camp on the former City Hall site ignored the fragile nature of our downtown. Downtown is already fraught with economic, health and safety problems that we have been trying to address, and we believe this would have amplified those issues and specifically sent us backwards on addressing the negative perception of downtown. We applaud our leaders for ultimately finding a better solution for both the homeless population our community was hoping to serve and our downtown.

From this experience, we hope our community has learned some valuable lessons that will inform efforts to address future challenges. Moving ahead, we look forward to staying engaged in the conversation and request we work to:

- Involve stakeholders in the process of developing solutions prior to making decisions that affect them.
- Listen to the concerns and advice of stakeholders and take their feedback into consideration in future decisions.
- As a community, better understand the underlying reasons for homelessness in our area – to include analyzing existing data from the Highway 99 rest stop and collecting new data – and apply this information to future decision making.
- Pair solutions with enforcement of the city's camping ban in accordance with the law.
- Continue to work to give police officers the tools they need for enforcement and service.
- Foster safe and healthy neighborhoods in every part of our city, including downtown.

Eugene's downtown stakeholders want to be part of the solution, working in partnership with our elected and public officials. Our community will be most successful when we unite to solve problems together.

CC: Mayor and City Councilors

Sincerely,

Downtown Eugene Merchants - Geoff Ostrove

Downtown Neighborhood Association -Mike DeLuise

Downtown Eugene Inc. - Claire Barnum

Chamber of Commerce – Brittany Quick-Warner

Technology Association of Oregon – Matt Sayre

Campbell Commercial Real Estate - Tim Campbell

Citizen's Building - Andy Storment, Mike Coughlin

IDX - Chad Barczak

Sheer ID – Jake Weatherly

Funk/Levis & Associates - Anne Marie Levis

TJ's Gardens

The Downtown Athletic Club - Rob Bennett

Gallic & Johnson Financial - Kerrie L. Johnson

Accu-Pay Servicing

Cascade Title - Meghan McMahon

bell+funk

North + West Collections - Nicole Desch

Two Oak, LLC - Jenny Ulum

Armen Kevrekian - Ambrosia

Dick and Sandee Gerber

BMC – Sarah Bennett

Eugene Hotel - Judy Jackson

Asbury & Co - Steve Asbury

Randall Collis

Beth Sheehan

G Group – David Davini

Schaefers Building and Schaefers State Farm – Sherry Schaefers

Journey Tree Financial Planning and Investment - Jonathan Brandt

AHM Brands – Brent MacCluer

Summit Bank

The Barn Light – Thomas Pettus-Czar, Mark Sheppard

The Shedd Institute